



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 2, 2009
Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:05 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Jo Blacketor, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Daniel Elsener, Steve Gabet, Sarah O'Brien, Mike Pettibone, David Shane, and James Edwards were present. Board members Vicki Snyder and Neil Pickett were not present.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Statement of the Chair

Dr. Bennett discussed the Race To The Top (RTTT) application process. Dr. Bennett said final guidance is out. We are now on a 60 day timeline that will culminate in our proposal being sent to the U S Department of Education on or before January 19, 2010. One change that came out in the final guidance was states have been put in tiers for how much money they can receive. Indiana is a state that is designated for a \$150 million to \$250 million dollar category; however, these figures are not hard caps. Dr. Bennett said the department of Education (DOE) is working with various stakeholders to put our application together. It is focused on four pillars:

- National common core standards and assessment.
- Great teachers and leaders.
- Longitudinal data.

- Turning around our lowest performing schools.

The federal government will announce awards in April 2010.

By the end of December, the Department will send out a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to all school corporations. The MOU states that the school corporation wants to be a part of the process. The MOU's will be sent in with Indiana's Race To The Top application. After Indiana's application is approved, schools will then submit a plan on how they will proceed.

Dr. Bennett said the department also is in the process of applying for the Phase II of the fiscal stabilization dollars.

Mr. Shane asked that school corporations be sent a timeline for Race To The Top application process. Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator, said this was in the works and schools would receive this information by the end of the week.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Mr. Zaring said the Spotlight on Learning recognizes the Fort Wayne Community School Board of School Trustees. John Pierce and Mitch Sheppard, Fort Wayne School Board of Trustees, and Laura Cain, Program Director, discussed the balanced scorecard that Fort Wayne Community Schools has been working on for the past couple of years.

The Fort Wayne Community Schools participated in the Darden/Curry Partnership for Leaders in Education (PLE) at the University of Virginia. PLE, a partnership of the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration and the Curry School of Education, developed an Executive Leadership Program with support from the Wallace Foundation to specifically meet the needs of senior educators at the state and district levels. Mr. Pierce discussed the development of the balanced scorecard and the mission, vision, core values, and goals for Fort Wayne Community Schools.

Mr. Pierce also thanked Dr. Bennett for attending a recent school board meeting.

V. Board Member Comments

Mr. Pettibone said he attended the Teacher of the Year Banquet, and it was a very enjoyable experience.

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by Dr. Vic Smith and Melissa Gallant.

VIII. Discussion

Mr. Zaring discussed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and said Board members have been provided information about requirements, definitions, and approval criteria for Phase Two of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. Mr. Zaring said this must be approved before we can submit our Race To The Top application. Mr. Zaring said Board members also received a question and answer document about the Common Core Standards initiative. As a part of the RTTT, the Board will be asked to adopt these standards in a few months.

Mr. Zaring said an update on legislation will be given at the January Board meeting. At that time Board members will be provided with a complete update of bills and department legislative initiatives.

Mr. Zaring said Board members received a list of discussion topics for the next couple of months and by January he will go through the department's strategic plan, talk with senior staff members, and plan this out for future months.

Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, explained the student growth model. December 15 is set for the public release of the "Phase I" growth data (school level).

The Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) retest results are on track to be returned to school corporations. In February 2010, the disaggregated data will be available.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on accountability and said the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) school visits have been completed. He introduced Tim Boyce, Cambridge Education.

Indiana Department of Education contracted with Cambridge Education to lead school reviews of the 23 schools in Indiana that are in their fourth year of academic probation.

Mr. Boyce discussed the review process and said the TAT visits were led by Cambridge Education reviewers and included Indiana educators, community representatives, and DOE staff members.

Mr. Boyce said the review program is designed to enable and assist each school to:

- Have a clear picture of the quality of education provided in terms of the DOE's three key domains – readiness to learn, readiness to teach, and readiness to act.
- Have a clear view of its strengths, areas for development, challenges, and successes.
- Enable leaders in both the school and district, as well as those in support roles, to embed quality reviews and focused action planning in their ongoing improvement efforts.

Of the 23 schools visited, four were judged to be fair, 16 were judged to be poor, and three were judged to be unacceptable. Mr. Boyce also said that not every one of the school corporations visited attended the planning days and the feedback meetings as they were requested to do. Corporations were asked to engage in the process, both during the TAT

visits and in the follow up action planning day; however, not all school corporation administrators participated.

Mr. Boyce said many of the teachers in these schools said they had never had a principal come to observe their class, evaluate their teaching, or tell them how they could improve their professional performance. The delivery of the curriculum in many of these classrooms is quite flawed.

Mr. Boyce said the lead reviewer from Cambridge Education worked with the principal and school leadership team following the review to prepare strategic, focused action plans and critical next steps based on the overall outcomes of the Quality Review. The outcome of this process will be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the school corporations and DOE.

Dale Chu, Senior Advisor for School Leadership and Policy discussed next steps. In terms of engaging schools around the MOU's, this will not begin in earnest until after the RTTT application is completed. The DOE will develop the MOU in conjunction with each school, and the TAT review report will be used to develop the MOU's. The development of the MOU will involve the school corporation leadership, Mr. Chu, Mr. Zaring, Dr. Bennett, and possibly members of the State Board of Education. Mr. Chu said the MOU will give clear guidance to the school corporations that these are the things they need to do to improve.

Dr. John Keller, Director, Information Technology, showed a power point presentation of The Learning Connection. The Learning Connection is an online system for schools, educators, parents and students that can be used to improve student learning and to increase connections between teachers, student and parents and between data and classroom practice. Educators can sign up for accounts on their own and receive access to a core set of features.

Dr. Keller discussed how The Learning Connection can help educators:

- Access, review and analyze student data.
- Design standards-based lessons and assess student learning.
- Access digital content.

Sue Foxx, Alternative Education Consultant, and Chelsie Mann, showed a power point presentation regarding dropout prevention and graduation rate improvement.

Ms. Foxx said, despite many efforts by the Department, school, and communities, Indiana has made little progress in improving graduation rates and preventing dropouts. While many school corporations were able to improve graduation rates from 2007 to 2008, 126 lost ground, indicating that if we only continue with the status quo the number of dropouts will increase. Knowing who is at risk and what their needs are can intercept the failure trajectory for many at risk students. Many problems could be avoided if schools put into

place a system that includes early identification, positively-based responses to student behavior and evidence-based interventions that are matched to student needs.

The DOE and State Farm Insurance, in partnership with the America's Promise Alliance convened the Indiana Dropout Prevention Leadership Summit on September 25. Eight-hundred-fifty individuals from county teams in 55 counties attended and will prepare dropout prevention plans to improve school completion through efforts within their local communities. The state coordinating group plans to sponsor quarterly county team leader meetings, and regional summits will begin in the Spring of 2010.

Ms. Foxx also discussed several effective alternative education programs and said 195 alternative education programs currently are providing services to students in grades 6 – 12 who meet eligibility criteria.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for adoption of final orders in administrative adjudications where no objections have been filed to the recommended order of the hearing officer. [Agenda item VI, A]

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the consent agenda item. Dr. Griffith-Adell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request to begin the rule making process of assigning letter grades to schools.

Mr. Elsener moved for approval. Mr. Pettibone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request to endorse the seclusion and restraint policy.

Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mr. Elsener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of adoption of mathematics textbooks.

Mr. Pettibone made a motion for approval. Mr. Shane modified the motion to include a letter of affirmation to the school districts that the world could change, in terms of what may be required in instruction, and the textbooks you choose to buy now may not align at a later time. Dr. Bennett said school corporations need to be notified that there will be new standards and what they may be buying may not be what they need. Board members asked that a letter stating this idea be sent to school corporations along with a copy of the common core standards and a statement that this is where we are headed.

Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight ayes and one no (Mrs. Blacketor.)

- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Common School Fund loans for technology and school construction, with the recommendation from the department to deny Gary Community School Corporation's request for a Common School construction loan because the school corporation has 11 buildings that are not currently being used.

Mr. Gabet moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Caterina Blitzer, Literacy Specialist, presented a request for approval of academic standards for programs for Heritage Language Learners.

Dr. Griffith-Adell moved for approval. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mrs. Blacketor moved for adjournment. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 229, State House • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798
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MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 17, 2009
Indiana State Library
315 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 10:05 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Daniel Elsener, Steve Gabet, Mike Pettibone, David Shane, Neil Pickett, Vicki Snyder, and James Edwards were present. Board members Sarah O'Brien and Jo Blacketer were not present.

I. Statement of the Chair

Dr. Bennett discussed a press release issued by Governor Daniels on December 15 regarding that state revenue forecast. State funding to all school districts and charter schools must experience a decrease of approximately three percent. The Governor asked that members of the State Board of Education meet quickly and recommend how a reduction by school corporations can be absorbed without reducing the number of classroom teachers. The Governor asked that recommendations from the State Board of Education be given to him on Friday, December 18.

Chris Ruhl, Director, State Budget Agency, discussed the state budget forecast and said schools will get \$300 million less than expected in the next 18 months.

Mike McConnell, Chairman, and Amy Matthews, Interim General Counsel, Indiana Education Employment Relations Board discussed Public Law 217. Public Law 217 was passed by the General Assembly and established collective bargaining procedures for Indiana's certified public school employees, mostly classroom teachers.

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Mr. McConnell and Ms. Matthews discussed salary data from the five years for teachers with master's degrees and 11 years of service, and projected the theoretical cost of a 2.94 percent annual salary increase.

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Dr. Frank Bush, Indiana School Boards Association.
- Dr. John Ellis, Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents.
- Nate Schnellenberger, Indiana State Teachers Association.
- Denny Costerison, Indiana Association of School Business Officials.
- Dr. Brian Smith, and Mike Reuter, Hamilton Southeastern Schools.
- Larry John, Cowan Community School Corporation.
- Steve Gookins, Milan Community Schools.
- Dr. Jeffery Stephens, DeKalb County Eastern School District.
- Derek Redelman, Indiana chamber of Commerce.
- Dr. Vic Smith
- Thomas Wheeler, Frost, Brown, Todd Law Firm.
- Doug Cassman, Educational Services Company.
- Terry Rice, Perry Township Schools.
- Dr. Chuck Little, Indiana Urban Schools Association.
- Dennis Stockdale, Garrett-Keyser-Butler School District.
- Libby Cierzniak, Indianapolis Public Schools.

Written documents provided by the presenters are attached to these minutes.

The Board recessed at 1:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:55 p.m.

At Dr. Bennett's request, Douglas Cassman, Educational Services Company, discussed health insurance premium plans currently used by some school corporations, in comparison to health insurance plans offered by state government for state employees.

Lance Rhodes, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education, gave Board members a document that summarized the morning discussion and presented various cost savings considerations for school corporations. Mr. Rhodes also discussed cost saving measures taken by the Department of Education in the past several months.

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Board members discussed the following recommendations to reduce school budgets without reducing the number of classroom teachers:

- Reduction in tuition support should begin with the January 2010 payment.
- Funding cuts should go far enough to avoid additional cuts to school corporation and charter schools in calendar year 2010.
- A "Citizens' Checklist" of cost saving measures should be compiled and presented to the State Board of Education for approval at the January 2010 Board meeting.

The business meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

A copy of the letter sent to the governor is attached to these minutes